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Businesses surveyed on Covid impact

Pioneer Valley business and planning agencies are conducting an online survey of local businesses and organizations about how the coronavirus state of emergency has affected them.

The information gathered will be used to advocate for resources to help now and in the coming weeks and months. The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVBIZCOVID and will be active until March 31.

A report of survey findings will be posted at FRCOG.org in early April.

Agencies sponsor-

IMPACT, 4

Don't flush those 'flushable wipes' into city sewers

The Holyoke Water Works is urging all residents to ignore all "flushable wipes" labels and advertising, and to dispose of these items in the garbage, not the toilet.

"Flushable" items are clogging sewer systems, and blockages caused by wipes cause utility workers to remove them in confined places. Many times this must be done by hand, which is dangerous and costly.

"These flushable wipes, which are being used by people sometimes to clean door knobs, countertops, and other surfaces, are a growing hazard to public health," said Nadine Leslie, chief executive officer for SUEZ North America, which partners

FLUSH, 8

College classes online for rest of spring term

Holyoke Community College will begin conducting all classes remotely for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester, potentially including final exams.

The college had previously announced that it would extend spring break by one week while suspending in-person classes March 23-27.

CLASSES, 5

Virus reduces city to 'essentials'

*Mall is nearly empty,
schools closed until May*

By Michael Ballway
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Gov. Charlie Baker stopped short of ordering Massachusetts residents to self-quarantine this week, as officials attempt to stop the spread of the coronavirus. His recommendation to stay home is just an "advisory," he said.

It's not like there are that many places they can go.

The schools are closed — public schools, private schools, Holyoke Community College. Any workplace that isn't deemed an "essential" industry is closed, though workers can telecommute. Most shops, other than food, drug and hardware stores, are closed. Restaurants are open for takeout or delivery meals only.

Holyoke has been a regional leader in the movement to enforce "social distancing." Last week, the mayor's office ordered that retailers enforce a "10-10-10" rule, limiting their occupancy to 10 people at a time, with customers asked to spend no more than 10 minutes in the store, and remain 10 feet away from each other. Grocery, pharmacy and medical establishments



The parking lot outside Macy's at the Holyoke Mall is empty last Friday, after the department store — like most other mall businesses — closed its doors.

Photo by Michael Ballway

were exempted from this rule.

The mayor also ordered the closure of any establishment that can only be accessed by a "covered mall" — that is, most of the shops in the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside. As a result, this week, only one store at the mall remains fully open; one additional store is open for pickups only, and a restaurant is open for takeout only.

Before the weekend, Mayor Alex Morse closed all personal service establishments, such as hairdressers and barbers, fitness centers, nail salons and tattoo parlors — any business where it's impossible for the service provider and the customer to stand 6 feet apart.

This was followed on March 23 by the order from Gov. Charlie Baker stopping all

in-person service at "non-essential" businesses as of Tuesday. The governor's ban will end at noon Tuesday, April 7, unless it is extended.

This Wednesday, Baker announced that he was extending the statewide school closures to May 4. Holyoke had originally planned for a two-

See ESSENTIALS, page 5

Closures got you down? Take a hike

*State parks, reservoir
trails still open for
walks in nature*

By Shelby Macri
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While most non-emergency government services are closed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, recreation facilities like Mount Tom State

Reservation and the Whiting Street Reservoir were still open earlier this week.

Going to the park remains one of the few leisure activities outside the house that officials are still encouraging people to do — though there are a few changes to park policies.

"Both the Ashley Reservoir and Whiting Street Reservoir are still open to visitors," said David Conti,



Hiking trails at Whiting Street Reservoir, as well as at Ashley Reservoir and Mount Tom State Reservation, are among the last government services still functioning as normal amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Photo by Shelby Macri

Senate primary rescheduled to Tuesday, May 19

By Michael Ballway
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Voters in Holyoke will have to wait to choose their next state senator.

The Massachusetts Senate on Monday voted to delay the March 31 special election to Tuesday, May 19, according to the secretary of state's office. Additionally, the Legislature and governor agreed that day on a law to expand access to absentee voting.

Two candidates are vying for the open seat, Agawam businessman John Cain, R-Southwick, and state Rep. John Velis, D-Westfield. The senate district includes all of Holyoke, as well as nine other cities and towns to the south and west, and four precincts in Chicopee.

As the coronavirus pandemic has prompted the closure of government offices across the state and advice that

See HIKE, page 11

See PRIMARY page 13

Parade honorees will hold over to 2021

By Shelby Macri
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All of this year's St. Patrick's Committee honorees, from the Grand Colleen's Court to the grand marshal, will be back again in 2021.

That was the announcement of the committee last week, just before the 69th Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parade would have been held, if not for the fear of spreading coronavirus at the city's largest outdoor event of the year.

Since this year's awardees didn't get a chance to march along the streets of Holyoke, the committee announced on March 20 that they will effectively "postpone" the 2020 parade by one year, and "hold over" all the 2020 awardees for the 2021 event.

They made the decision after discussing their options on March 15. The alternative, according to Parade President Marc Joyce, was to choose new awardees and a new grand colleen in 2021, but also let the 2020 honorees march in their own separate division.

"We felt that having both the 2020 and 2021 awardees and colleens in the same parade would undermine the glory and experience for both groups," Joyce said. "Some of the luster is lost when you don't get to be on the float or march in the parade, and the colleens are thrilled to have this chance."

Another drawback is that adding a whole separate division would increase the length of the parade — already one of the nation's largest — which would complicate the television broadcast.

On the other hand, having a fresh set of honorees in 2021 would have allowed



Sidewalks were empty on High Street at parade time last Sunday, as Holyoke's St. Patrick's weekend festivities were canceled for the first time in nearly 70 years. The annual parade was one of innumerable large-scale events, around the world, to be canceled because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Photo by Michael Ballway

the St. Patrick's Committee to hold its traditional winter calendar of award announcements, the colleen pageant and Grand Colleen Coronation.

With the awardees and Grand Colleen's Court already picked for next year, the St. Patrick's Committee will look for other ways to build up to the parade. The committee was already planning to host the "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" road race on Sept. 12, and a golf tournament around September or

October. Now their attention will turn to next winter.

"We've been thinking about doing something during the month of January, as a way to have a regional get-together with the award winners, colleens, committee members, and general public of course," Joyce said. "We still want to kick off the season with a bang, so we're hoping to plan something."

The awardees and colleens are not the only ones continuing from 2020 to

2021. Ordinarily, the parade president and members of the parade committee will change from year to year. This time — with the blessing of the planned 2021 president — Joyce and his board members are staying in place to finish what they've started.

"We've received a mix of good and bad thoughts," Joyce said. "Some people are really upset about the cancellation of the parade, but none more than myself and the committee. We're very excited to continue next year and see this thing through."

As for the grand colleen's float that was designed by Blessed Sacrament School student Anna Puttick and constructed by students at Holyoke High School's Dean Campus, the committee is trying to secure the same carriage that would have been used on the float for next year. While the float was being put together with Dobbin the horse, builders found cracks in two of Dobbin's legs. Dean students are working to repair Dobbin so that he can be featured on the float for next year.

"If we don't get all the exact elements for next year, we will try our best to get replicas to make this float an amazing rendition of Puttick's design," Joyce said. "We're very excited for next year and we'll be holding all the events associated with the parade, next year." This includes the JFK Memorial wreath-laying, the bishop's reception and the Irish ambassador's breakfast before the parade. All of these events were canceled with only a few days' notice earlier this month, as public health officials revised their assessment of the threat posed by the coronavirus.

Mayor names 3 teams for emergency response

City officials this week announced a new Incident Command Structure designed to rapidly respond to the needs of Holyoke citizens during the Covid-19 public health emergency. Anticipating the volume and complexity of the challenges to come, Mayor Alex Morse has rolled out an inter-agency team of leaders poised to provide crucial support in the coming weeks.

"Over the last three weeks, we have moved quickly and successfully to shift a core group of city staff members into new roles that will ensure the continuity of vital city functions and to implement a proactive series of regulations to slow down the spread of Covid-19 in Holyoke during its early stages" said Morse, who has been conducting frequent Facebook Live sessions and community phone conversations in order to connect with residents and collect concerns from the public. "Although I know that these massive efforts will go a long way to protecting our community, there is still a lot that needs to be done to mitigate the dangerous challenges presented by business closures, social isolation, and the escalating threat of this virus."

The new command structure includes three planning teams that will identify resources and develop responses to the city's most pressing needs in an emergency: the local economy, social services, and sheltering.

Members of the local economy team include Tessa Murphy Romboletti, director of EforAll Holyoke; Andrea Marrion, president of the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce; John Dyjach, the city's assistant director for economic development; and Ben Murphy, development specialist for the city of Holyoke.

Members of the social services team include state Rep. Aaron Vega and his aide Pat Duffy, as well as Alicia Zoeller, administrator of community development for the city.

Members of the sheltering team are Sarah Meier-Zimbler, development director at the Holyoke Housing Authority; Steve Huntley from the Valley Opportunity Council; Sean Gonsalves, director of the city's Health Department; and Jesus Pereira, the city's director of veterans services.

Marcos Marrero, the city's director of planning and economic development, is currently serving as deputy manager of the Municipal Emergency Operations Center, and will serve as the city's point person for the planning teams.

"This pandemic, and the efforts required to slow it down, have the potential to paralyze many of the systems that we rely on every day," Marrero said. "Our challenge now, before the worst of this crisis hits, is to deploy a coordinated community response structure to make sure that basic needs in our city are being met for all. The systems we set up now will also put us in a better position for a smoother recovery and prepare us for a return to regular operations when the time comes."

"What we hope to gain from this broad collaboration," added Morse, "is quick, reliable access to information and resources for every single person. We are not letting the pandemic get ahead of us; we are working across these sectors to make sure that no one in Holyoke falls through the cracks. We will do everything in our power to save lives, keep our residents safe, and make sure we are prepared for the difficult recovery that waits ahead for all of us."

Schools launch at-home learning site

With Holyoke schools now closed until at least early May, teachers and administrators are providing new materials and launching an online portal to keep students learning while classes are canceled.

Teachers have already been communicating with their students via email, phone, social media and other electronic means. As the school closure has extended beyond the two weeks that were initially announced, students are exhausting the at-home learning packets that teachers prepared at the start of the closure.

This week, the School Department debuted [hpsathome.com](#), its new at-home learning website. All Holyoke educators will begin posting work on this website at least twice a week for families and students to access.

Additional take-home packets will be available for students at food distribution sites — Donahue, Kelly, Lawrence, Morgan and Sullivan schools, and Holyoke High School's North Campus, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

on weekdays. More packets will be distributed on an ongoing basis as the school closure continues.

Academic and wellness care packages will also be provided to food distribution sites next week. Care packages will include hands-on learning materials such as basic art supplies, games to support collaboration at home (dominos, etc.), flashcards and books.

Additional online resources can be found at www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/HPS-At-Home-Learning-Activities.pdf.

Student participation in all of these activities is optional. They are designed to enrich and extend classroom lessons, not to replace traditional instruction.

To help students access online learning, the schools are making sure each family has access to the Internet. Schools are compiling a list of families that do not have at least one device at home, or lack Internet access. Families that need an Internet device should contact their child's teacher or principal.

Banks are open, but urge online visits

The Massachusetts Bankers Association announced that banks throughout the state will remain open while keeping their customers and employees safe.

According to Gov. Charlie Baker's order issued March 23, financial institutions such as banks are considered essential services and will not be subject to the closure.

"While we strongly encourage all Massachusetts residents to heed the governor's stay-at-home advisory and use online or mobile banking, consumers will continue to have access to banking services during the mandatory non-essential business closure," said Daniel Forte, MBA president and CEO.

"The safest place for your money right now is in your local bank, where it is insured up to \$250,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Many Massachusetts banks also have excess insurance to protect your funds."

Consumers needing access to banking services should check with their institution, as many banks have closed branch lobbies, reduced hours or shifted to drive-through-only. However, bank staff are available to serve customers and answer questions. In addition, access to funds through online and mobile banking, ATMs and at point-of-sale transactions remains available during this time.

For more information, visit www.massbankers.org.

Jail pauses inmate visits to slow virus

By Elise Linscott
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The Hampden County Sheriff's Department is making several operational changes in light of the coronavirus pandemic, including temporarily pausing inmate visits and requiring professional visitors to wear face masks.

The department recently had one person placed in preventative medical quarantine for showing symptoms potentially associated with Covid-19, according to a press release. But as of March 13, that person was symptom-free and determined not to be ill and was removed from preventative medical quarantine.

The sheriff last week held a press conference and announced a number of temporary operational changes, including pausing inmate visits for 60 days or until the threat of Covid-19 passes, authorizing two hours of free phone calls per week and giving each inmate three free envelopes per week.

"These are unprecedented times and to adapt, and best protect our staff, the offenders in our care and the general public, we are taking unprecedented measures that impact virtually every aspect of our operations," said Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi. "None of these decisions were made lightly and we will continually be evaluating our decisions over the coming weeks to ensure that these changes remain necessary and are the best way to ensure the health and safety of every staff member and person in our care."

Other operational changes include temporarily stopping all offender-based programs and reducing programs provided by the sheriff's department; allowing

attorney, clergy and court-ordered visits only if the visitors wear face masks and avoid physical contact; and altering the PVTA's Stonybrook Express bus

line, which is subsidized by the sheriff's department and which will temporarily stop bringing passengers to the correctional facilities.

Work-release employees and community service crews assigned to do restitution will discontinue their work until further notice.

Health services will screen and must approve every request for a transfer from other facilities and the department will not accept a transfer unless the subject has already been in custody for at least 14 days and is shown to be symptom-free.

Non-essential staff have been excused from reporting to work. Meal services for inmates will continue as normal and all medical services will continue with additional attention paid to the transmission of infectious diseases throughout the department's facilities, according to the department.

The Western Massachusetts County Correctional Officer's Basic Training Academy has also been closed until further notice. Academy recruits will be screened by health services and will be assigned to work in the facilities to assist staff once cleared.

Courts across the state have been temporarily closed since March 16. The department has since been working to increase its capacity for video conferencing.

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department serves Holyoke and several other cities and towns in the Springfield area, from Chester to Brimfield.



Sheriff Nick Cocchi details the Hampden County Sheriff's Department response to the coronavirus pandemic at the county jail in Ludlow last week.

Submitted photo

Holyoke Community College scholarship deadline is extended

Holyoke Community College has extended by two weeks the deadline to apply for scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year.

The new application deadline is Wednesday, April 8.

"We recognize the challenges that the Covid-19 crisis is presenting for our students on many levels, academically and personally," said Amanda Sbriscia, HCC vice president of institutional advancement. "By extending our scholarship deadline, we hope to alleviate a small bit of the stress or anxiety our students may be facing and ensure that they are given all the time they need to submit their applications. As a college, we're committed to helping students overcome barriers to success. In light of these unprecedented times, this is a potential barrier that's easily removed."

Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible

for scholarships, which are awarded through the HCC Foundation, HCC's nonprofit fundraising corporation.

More than \$200,000 in awards is available for incoming, continuing and transferring HCC students.

Applicants need only fill out a single form at www.hcc.edu/scholarships to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

For the 2019-20 academic year, the HCC Foundation awarded \$223,000 in scholarships to 231 students.

Questions should be directed to the HCC Foundation office at 413-552-2182 or Donahue 170 on the HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke.

Share your stories of staying at home

The Holyoke Sun wants to know how you're coping with the coronavirus closures and how they've changed all of our lives — no school, no work, social distancing and staying at home.

We can't meet our neighbors in the schoolyards, playing fields or workplaces of Holyoke, but we can all share a few snapshots of what life's like with the kids in the house and the home office working overtime. Take a minute to send in an update on how you're doing, what fun enrichment activities the kids have been up to, or anything else that's made the past two weeks a special time in your home. Include full names of the writer or photographer, and

anyone visible in each photo. We'll print the best entries in next week's newspaper, and in subsequent weeks as the state of emergency continues. The best way to contact us is at thesun@turley.com.

We would also be glad to publish Holyoke children's artwork, essays or photos created during the school closure. Include the creator's full name, age, and school attended.

For all submissions, also include a telephone number and email address. We won't publish this information, but may use it to verify identities or ask follow-up questions.

Stay safe out there — and let us know how you're doing!

OneHolyoke working to help 2020 Census

With the U.S. Census now formally launching, OneHolyoke CDC announced it has received two grants totaling \$25,000 — \$15,000 from the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Complete Count Grant and \$10,000 from the Massachusetts Census Equity Fund — to assist local efforts to identify and count those who have historically been underrepresented in the Census, which is conducted every 10 years by the federal Census Bureau.

OneHolyoke is a member of both Holyoke Complete Count and the Pioneer Valley Complete Count committees, which are tasked with assuring that all residents of a community are counted. Hard-to-count populations include low-income individuals, highly mobile populations who rent their housing, the elderly, college students, those who are homeless and non-English speakers, among others. Holyoke's population includes several members of these groups, and through the grant OneHolyoke will be mobilizing field workers and a range of outreach strategies to reach every resident of the city.

OneHolyoke has taken a leadership position in the Complete Count effort by also hosting U.S. Census job fairs for inner-city Holyoke residents who have become part of the Census-counting workforce.

The U.S. Census takes place every 10 years, and will impact how federal funds get distributed to Massachusetts and to individual cities each year. Millions of dollars in federal funding are allocated by a formula that takes into account population. Every 10,000 in population makes available additional federal funds. In the previous Census, Holyoke's population was just under 40,000. Representation in Congress is also determined by popula-

tion, and after the last Census Western Massachusetts lost a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

According to Michael Moriarty, OneHolyoke executive director, "The city of Holyoke's population was likely undercounted 10 years ago, which had a direct impact on the availability of resources for our citizens. Our mission, and the reason OneHolyoke is collaborating with others in local leadership around the Census, is to assure our population is fully and accurately counted so that residents are not denied vital services."

Moriarty added, "We are already actively engaged in social media outreach, promoting local applications for enumerator hiring, and organizing response centers in the downtown area."

The campaign will specifically focus on hard-to-count populations — members of the community who are less likely to complete and return their census questionnaires.

For the first time ever, the 2020 Census can be completed online, along with the traditional methods of responding over the phone or by mail. Every household will receive information about the census by mail beginning mid-March 2020. Census Day is April 1, 2020, and questionnaire responses are supposed to represent households as they exist on that day.

OneHolyoke is the only certified Community Development Corporation based in the city of Holyoke. Founded in 1971, OneHolyoke CDC has created over 160 new homes in the Flats, Churchill and South Holyoke neighborhoods, rehabilitated hundreds of apartments and provided thousands of home improvement grants to homeowners through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

Governor Baker issues stay-at-home notice

Gov. Charlie Baker this week issued an emergency order requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide "Covid-19 Essential Services" to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public until noon Tuesday, April 7. These businesses are encouraged to continue operations remotely.

Baker also directed the Department of Public Health to issue a stay-at-home advisory with self-isolation and social distancing protocols. Residents are advised to stay home and avoid unnecessary travel and other unnecessary activities during this two-week period. Residents over 70 years of age or with underlying health conditions, who are considered at high risk when exposed to the coronavirus, should limit social interactions with other people as much as possible.

The advisory stops short of mandating that people stay home, but the Baker administration has banned gatherings of more than 10 people, a reduction from the 25-person limit established in an earlier order.

This includes community, civic, public, leisure, faith-based events, and any similar event or activity that brings together more than 10 persons in any confined indoor or outdoor space. The order does not prohibit gatherings of more than 10 people in an outdoor space, like a park or athletic field.

The DPH issued several recommendations on how Massachusetts residents can limit their potential exposure to the coronavirus.

- Residents can leave the home for essential shopping, to get fresh air or exercise, but should practice "social distancing," staying 6 feet away from others, and limit their exposure to frequently touched surfaces. Some stores have established alternative hours for high-risk individuals.

- Pharmacy prescriptions should be filled for 90 days, if possible; high-risk individuals should use a mail-order service.

- Residents should communicate with family, friends and neighbors through telephone or video chat. Parents should not arrange play dates for their children.

- Close-contact activities, such as sports games, should be eliminated.

- Non-essential medical care such as eye exams, teeth cleaning and elective procedures must be rescheduled. If possible, health care visits should be done remotely.

Essential businesses

The Baker administration issued a list of designated businesses and other organizations that provide essential services and workforces related to Covid-19 that will be allowed to stay open during this two-week period. While

these businesses are designated as essential, they are urged to follow social distancing protocols.

Exceptions to the business ban include health care facilities, and industries that support health care; health, disability and youth care providers; pharmacies; mortuaries and related businesses; law enforcement and public safety agencies, and contractors who support them; groceries and other food retail, including farm stands and liquor stores; farmers and food manufacturers; restaurant carry-out, quick-serve and delivery services; other businesses related to food, livestock and forestry; businesses related to energy generation and distribution, and fuel distribution; hazardous waste, waste and wastewater businesses; businesses in transportation and logistics, including personal transportation such as auto repair, rental cars, cabs and ride-hailing services; workers involved in the construction, maintenance, operation or inspection of public works; workers in the communications industry, including the news media; workers in information technology; workers in financial services; and workers involved in essential government or defense operations.

Businesses and organizations not on the list of essential services are encouraged to continue operations through remote means that do not require workers, customers, or the public to enter or

appear at the brick-and-mortar premises closed by the order.

Restaurants, bars, and other establishments that sell food and beverage products to the public are encouraged to continue to offer food for takeout and by delivery if they follow social distancing protocols. On-premises consumption of food or drink is prohibited.

Intrastate waste and recycling collection and disposal will continue uninterrupted during the coronavirus emergency. Due to the essential nature of these services, the state will provide relief from state and federal requirements that govern the hours of service allowed for commercial vehicle operators involved in waste and recycling transportation and collection, while maintaining important safety protections and measures.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Martin Suuberg said, "It is imperative that residents across the (state) be able to rely on key services such as waste and recycling collection and disposal. By issuing this emergency order, we can better protect public health by ensuring that residents are able to maintain proper hygiene, cleanliness, and social distancing in their homes while navigating these new and challenging circumstances."

For more information, visit www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-essential-services.



Holyoke Community College Police Capt. Dale Brown stacks boxes of supplies from science and medicine classes that the college is donating to local hospitals.

Submitted photo

Holyoke Community College donates medical class supplies to hospitals

In response to requests from area hospitals experiencing shortages of supplies, Holyoke Community College this week prepared to donate surgical masks, isolation gowns, exam gloves and other personal protection equipment from its health science programs to help frontline medical professionals as they battle the coronavirus.

HCC's Emergency Response Team has been coordinating with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency on the collection of supplies from the college's Health Sciences division and its Division of Business and Workforce Development.

Late last week, the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council sent out a list of personal protection equipment that Baystate Medical Center and other area hospitals are "in desperate need of."

"I know we have all been looking

for meaningful ways to help out during these stressful times of Covid-19," said the message, which was sent on behalf of WestMass President and CEO Rick Sullivan. "Our frontline medical professionals and first responders need our help."

The items HCC has been collecting include boxes of isolation gowns, exam gloves, masks, goggles, hand sanitizer, and microbial wipes from its nursing, radiological technology, veterinary technician, biology, forensic science and certified nursing assistant programs.

HCC Police Capt. Dale Brown spent an afternoon conducting an inventory of these supplies at the Campus Police station. He said he expected that a representative from MEMA would be picking up the items on campus sometime on March 24. MEMA will then in turn coordinate delivery to area hospitals, he said.

School calendar for 2020-21 approved

Classes will begin Aug. 31 and end in late June 2021, with an effective two-week Christmas-New Year-Three Kings Day break in the middle of the school year, according to a calendar released by the Holyoke School Department this month.

Holidays in the planned 2020-21 school year include Labor Day (Sept. 7), Columbus Day (Oct. 12), Veterans Day (Nov. 11), Thanksgiving Recess (Nov. 25-27), Winter Break (Dec. 24 to Jan. 1), Three Kings Day (Jan. 6), Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 18), Presidents Day and February Break (Feb. 15-19), Good Friday (April 2), Patriots Day and April Break (April 19-23) and Memorial Day (May 31).

Additionally, students will have no school on two sets of back-to-back professional development days, Nov. 2-3 and Jan. 4-5. The January professional development dates, combined with other holidays and Winter Break, mean students will have two full weeks of no

classes from Christmas Eve to Three Kings Day.

Early release dates are planned for Oct. 21, Dec. 23 (the day before Winter Break begins) and March 10. Most schools will dismiss three hours early on those dates; Veritas Prep will dismiss at 1 p.m. There will also be noon dismissal days at Veritas Prep only on Oct. 23, Jan. 22 and March 5.

The Aug. 31 start date applies to grades 1-12. Kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes will have an open house on Sept. 8, followed by the start of classes Wednesday, Sept. 9.

Report card dates are Nov. 13, Feb. 5 and April 5 for grades 6-12, and Dec. 9 and March 25 for kindergarten to grade 5, along with the last day of school for all grades.

The last day of school will be June 22, 23, 24, 25 or 28, depending on how many of the district's five makeup dates are needed because of weather-related cancellations.

Women's Leadership Luncheons off

Because of the coronavirus pandemic and recommendations of public health officials, the Women's Leadership Luncheon Series scheduled for spring 2020 at Holyoke Community College's MGM Culinary Art Institute has been canceled.

The four-part, monthly "Leadership in Your Future 2020" series was set to begin Friday, March 27, and continue on

April 10, May 8 and June 19, featuring four women leaders from prominent area institutions. All four sessions have been canceled. The annual luncheon series is hosted by Holyoke Community College and the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, contact Valentyna Semyrog at vsemyrog@hcc.edu or 413-552-2123.

IMPACT, from page 1

ing the survey include the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Common Capital, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Franklin County Community Development

Corporation, Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce, MassHire Franklin Hampshire Employment Board, MassHire Hampden Employment Board, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Economic Development Partners, a group of regional and municipal planners and economic development leaders.

Check us out on the web www.sun.turley.com

Vets agent to serve on Soldiers' Home board

State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, recently announced the appointment of Richard Girard to the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Board of Trustees by Gov. Charlie Baker.

Girard, who serves as director of veterans services for Agawam and neighboring towns, is an Air Force veteran and former president of the Massachusetts Veteran Service Officers Association.

"I am honored to recognize the appointment of Richie Girard to the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Board of Trustees," said Boldyga. "Richie has exemplified tremendous commitment, excellence, and responsibility in caring

for our veterans for over a decade. I am certain Richie will continue his success in impacting the lives of countless veterans and their families in the years to come."

Established in 1952, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke is a multifaceted health care facility

available to eligible veterans from Massachusetts. It is a state-funded, fully accredited health care facility that offers veterans quality health care and hospice care, including full-time residential accommodations, an on-site dental clinic, veterans assistance center, and a multi-service outpatient department.



State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, left, stands with Richard Girard, the newest member of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Board of Trustees.

Submitted photo

CLASSES, from page 1

To ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff amid the coronavirus outbreak, HCC will not return to the classroom and will instead launch remote learning beginning Monday, March 30.

"We know this is the right thing to do because we are committed to providing a safe environment for all who come to HCC," said college President Christina Royal. "What made this a really hard decision was knowing the impact it would have on this place where people want to be, where our students engage with one another and where they find the resources and support they need."

In a letter to students this week, Royal said HCC faculty have been hard at work preparing for the change, studying the fundamentals of remote teaching and learning. Each professor will choose the best platform for each individual class, including such programs and services as Moodle, Zoom, WebEx and Google Hangouts.

The campus will remain open, and the college library will provide wi-fi hotspots and Google Chromebooks available for borrowing. Students may also be able to use their smartphones, if their data plan allows.

For more information, visit hcc.edu/coronavirus, or email coronavirus@hcc.edu.

ESSENTIALS, from page 1

week break ending March 27, before the governor enacted a statewide closure with April 6 as the earliest return date.

City offices

City Hall and other municipal buildings remain closed to the public. Residents with business at city offices are asked to call or email the relevant department first, or take advantage of online services at www.holyoke.org. If the department staff determine that the request cannot be handled by telephone or email, the resident may be able to visit the office by appointment only.

Closed meetings

City boards and commissions will meet only if absolutely necessary. All City Council meetings for the month of March were canceled. The state is allowing local boards to circumvent the state's Open Meeting Law and bar members of the public from attending meetings, as long as there is some other means of

access, such as a phone conference line for public comment or streaming video of the meeting.

Essential services

Police, fire and ambulance service will continue to be fully staffed. In the event of an emergency, residents can dial 9-1-1. Additionally, trash and recycling pickups will continue as usual.

Public schools

While the schools are closed, Holyoke teachers are contacting students to provide them with enrichment activities to keep them learning while at home.

The schools are also offering free "grab and go" meals to any Holyoke resident of school age, weekdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The boxed meals can be picked up at any one of six schools. Families are free to choose whichever site is most convenient, regardless of which schools their children attend.

- Donahue School, 210 Whiting Farms Road.
- Holyoke High School, North

SERVING AT SEA



Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class Cassandra Cutler, from Holyoke, mans a console to pull in the tactical towed-array sonar system aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf, earlier this month. Vella Gulf is conducting operations in the Atlantic Ocean as part of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Strike Group.

Submitted photo by Andrew Waters / U.S. Navy

HCSS-West Springfield classes continuing online

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Hampden Charter School of Science in West Springfield is continuing its educational activities online, while the governor's order closing schools until April 6 remains in effect.

HCSS Virtual School has been set up to provide parents and students most up-to-date information about the Covid-19 pandemic and how their school is responding to it. HCSS-West students, who come primarily from Agawam, Holyoke, Springfield and West Springfield, attend online Zoom sessions

to connect with their teachers every day between 10 a.m. and noon. Students also have the opportunity to meet with school counselors.

Teachers assign classwork on Google Classroom, to be completed online. All students have their Chromebooks with them and technical assistance is provided by school IT department online and on site on Wednesdays between noon and 2 p.m.

For more information, visit hampdencharter.org or email school administration at hcsswest@hampdencharter.org.

Valley Press Club scholarship deadline extended to April 17

The Valley Press Club has extended until April 17 its deadline to apply for up to six \$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors pursuing a career in journalism.

The Valley Press Club Scholarships, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students from Western Massachusetts or northern Connecticut pursuing careers in print, broadcast or photojournalism.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability, scholas-

tic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant's high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities.

Scholarship applications are available at www.ValleyPressClub.com, high school guidance offices, or by emailing ntassini@thebige.com.

Applications may be sent by email or by mail to Noreen Tassinari, VPC Scholarship Chair, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089.

Campus, 500 Beech St.

- Kelly School, 216 West St.
- Lawrence School, 156 Cabot St.
- Morgan School, 596 S. Bridge St.
- Sullivan School, 400 Jarvis Ave.

Library

The Holyoke Public Library will remain closed until further notice. Any items checked out will have their due dates changed to May 1, and overdue fines will be waived when the library reopens. Borrowers who wish to return items can use the outside book drops at any time.

For more information, and for online resources that will remain active while the library building is closed, visit www.holyokelibrary.org.

Senior Center

The Senior Center is closed until further notice. Those who depended on meals at the Senior Center are encouraged to contact WestMass ElderCare, at 413-538-9020, to sign up for the Meal on Wheels program.

Seniors in need of assistance during

this time are encouraged to call 413-322-5625. Messages will be checked, and a Council on Aging staff member will return the call as soon as possible.

Gas & Electric

Utility services are running as usual, but the Holyoke Gas & Electric offices are closed to the public. Customer service is still available during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., by telephone (413-536-9300) and email. Bills can be paid over the phone or online at www.hged.com.

The state Department of Public Utilities has enacted a moratorium on utility shutoffs for residential customers until further notice.

Parks and Rec

All sporting and community events have been canceled until further notice. Though the parks are still open, residents are discouraged from using them. Community Field will not be staffed, and the bathrooms will not be opened. No permits will be issued for parks events.

Editorial

Get counted on census day

Next Wednesday, April 1, marks National Census Day as, for the 24th time, the United States is taking a tally of the nation's population.

A constitutional mandate, the census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790. By now, all Holyoke households should have received a letter in the mail with information about filling out the 2020 federal census. It's vital that they do so.

Responding to the census request provides the government with information that determines how it will spend money, plan projects and distribute resources for the next decade — starting with representation in the federal House of Representatives. States can gain or lose seats every 10 years when the census is conducted, as Western Massachusetts residents well know, after former Rep. John Olver's 1st Congressional District was eliminated a decade ago. In the wake of this year's count, state officials will be redrawing the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts again to account for population shifts, growth and decline.

Cities and states also rely on the census financially. Federal funding and grants of more than \$675 billion, which support local social and infrastructure projects in states and communities, are distributed based on data gathered by the census. This is money that goes into our local schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

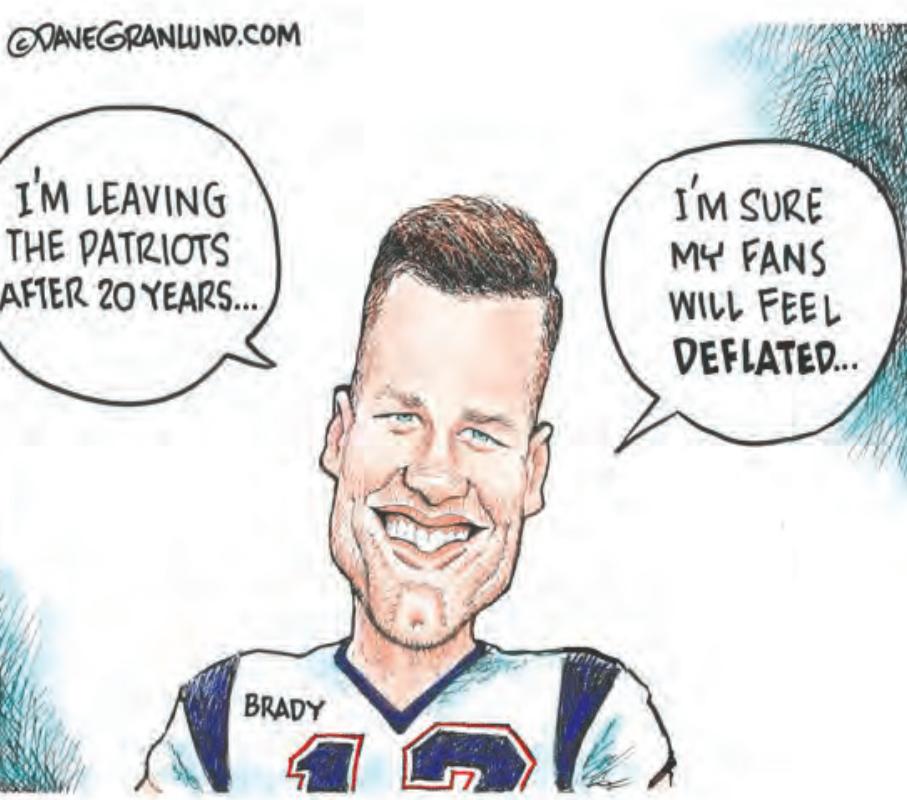
Local governments, too, use census information for public safety and emergency preparedness. During this Covid-19 pandemic, residents can rest assured that Holyoke has enough shelter beds, medical kits and other public health supplies — as long as it has accurate census data.

The government publishes community census data — not personal information — for use by private businesses and nonprofits. These community snapshots help organizations determine where to open a new store or factory, add new jobs, build new homes, revitalize neighborhoods or offer new social services.

The census asks the head of household to fill out information for each person living in that dwelling — name, relationship to the person filing the form, sex, age, date of birth, and race. Additional questions gather information about the living space and everyone in it. By law, the Census Bureau must protect all people's privacy and not identify anyone by name when the data gathered is being analyzed.

It is federal law that every household must respond to the census, and every person living in the United States must be counted. That includes people living in temporary quarters, and even people with no fixed address.

See CENSUS, page 7



Letters to the Editor

Inside view shows schools making progress

I recently retired after 42 years in education, including work as a teacher and administrator in Holyoke. Missing contact with students, I offered to volunteer in the system and ended up accepting a part-time paraprofessional position at Holyoke High. Thus, I can attest to what I see with my own eyes and compare it to the times before receivership without having to rely on what people who are not currently here claim to know.

Some former teachers have been recently vocal about ending receivership, and how turnover of veteran teachers hurts the system. They also promulgate the claim that any improvement during receivership, such as higher graduation rates, is due to a lowering of standards — a claim that implies that our student body is not capable of higher performance unless standards are lowered. The graduation rate has, indeed increased 10 points to 72.2 percent. Graduation rates cannot be improved in Massachusetts by lowering standards. Students must pass the MCAS tests that prevent communities from making up their own standards.

High staff turnover may be a sign of

problems if a system is performing well, but it may very well be positive if in a crisis. One huge difference I see is how much more diverse the faculty and staff is. At 22 percent minority—low, by our population—it is stunningly impressive to me. More importantly, I see teachers trying hard to apply new techniques aimed at improvement as part of a concerted, deliberate plan. I see with my own eyes a big positive difference in the schools I worked at and my children attended.

When is it time to end the receivership? It is not a matter of time, it is a matter of meeting benchmarks that stand a chance of persisting and not being easily dismantled. Just ending receivership will not do, and certainly not going back to the past. Receivership will eventually end. In fact, the state has verified enough improvement that the commissioner has begun to talk about a careful process of developing an exit strategy. Let's move forward with a plan, not backwards without one.

Efrain Martinez
Holyoke

HOLYOKE
the Sun
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A Quote

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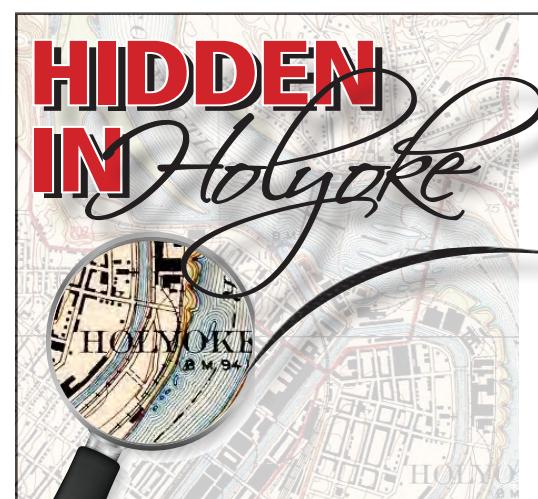
"We're very excited to continue next year and see this thing through."

Marc Joyce

CHECK OUT ALL THE

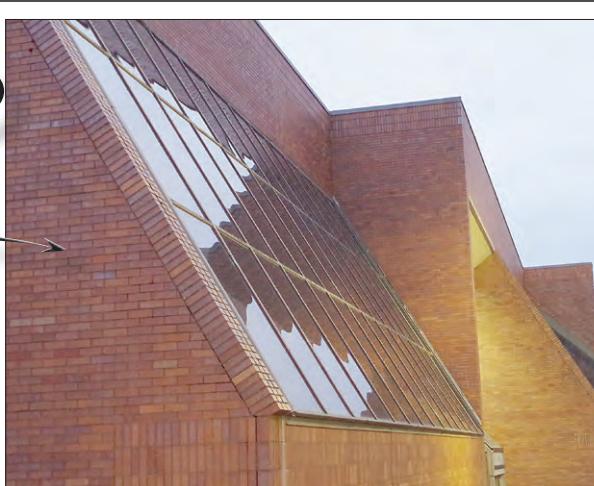
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Each week, *The Holyoke Sun* will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to "Hidden in Holyoke" via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday's edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact *The Holyoke Sun* at 413-283-8398.



Last week's "Hidden in Holyoke" was the entrance to Blessed Sacrament Church facing Northampton Street. It was correctly guessed by Don Diller, Dexter and Alice Gess, Angela Manning, Edward Trudeau, Fred Wanat, and Jay and Millie Whelihan.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Fund established to aid coronavirus financial hardship

SPRINGFIELD — United Way of Pioneer Valley has established the Covid-19 Recovery and Relief Fund to provide aid and resources to those affected by the current public health emergency. As the pandemic unfolds and schools, events and workplaces close, hourly, low-wage workers and many others will experience unprecedented financial hardship. In Massachusetts, two in five workers lack sufficient savings to withstand a sudden loss in wages.

Funds collected for this emergency relief fund will help families and individuals impacted by the pandemic to meet their basic, childcare, housing and financial needs. This emergency relief fund will also help to continue our programs such as Thrive and especially Mass211, a free referral hotline providing access to services such as emergency assistance and real-time Covid-19 information. Individuals can dial 2-1-1, United Way's 24/7 information and referral hotline, from any Massachusetts number to get information related to the virus.

For more information on donating, visit www.uwpv.org and follow the link to "Covid-19 Relief." Every donation helps those in need.

RMV extends expirations for licenses

SPRINGFIELD — The coronavirus state of emergency has resulted in the closure of several Registry of Motor Vehicles locations, but licenses and registrations that would have expired this month and next month are being extended.

In Western Massachusetts, only the Springfield and Pittsfield RMV offices remain open. All AAA branches that offered RMV services have closed. For the remaining RMV offices, transactions will be conducted by appointment only. Drivers may reserve time up to two days in advance at www.mass.gov/rmv.

Customers who make an appointment are advised to arrive on time and prepared for their visit at their selected location, and will be sent a confirmation email that they should be prepared to show on arrival. Customers who do not have immediate needs for necessary and required in-person transactions should delay their visits and not visit a service center without an appointment. All customers are asked to not bring multiple individuals with them to assist with "social distancing." Only a limited number of customers will be allowed in each service center at a time.

Hearings will be conducted at only five locations, none of which is in Western Massachusetts. The nearest RMV branch that will hold hearings is Worcester.

More than 40 different RMV transactions can be completed at www.mass.gov/rmv, which will remain active

throughout the state of emergency.

Licenses

All Class D and Class DM driver's licenses, ID cards, and learner's permits that have expired or are expiring between March 1 and April 30 will have a 60-day extension applied to the current expiration date. The same extension also applies for commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) and commercial learner's permits (CLPs) with expiration dates in those two months.

Class D and M learner's permit knowledge exams have been suspended until April 7. This means the RMV will not offer Class D or M knowledge exams in its service centers until then. Additionally, road tests are canceled through Monday, April 4. Learner's permit holders may reschedule their road test after that date, within the 60-day extension of their expiration date.

CDL road tests are still being administered, at the Wilmington and Milford service centers.

Inspections

Annual vehicle safety and emissions inspections will also have their expiration dates extended by two months.

Non-commercial vehicles with inspection stickers that expire on March 31 (designated by a number 3 on the inspection sticker) must be inspected by May 31.

Non-commercial vehicles with

inspections expiring in April (a "4" sticker) must be inspected by June 30.

Non-commercial vehicles with a failed inspection sticker (a red or black letter "R") due to expire in March must be re-inspected by May 31; "R" stickers expiring in April must be inspected by June 30. Additionally, the one free re-test for these vehicles is also extended to May 31 or June 30, provided the re-test is performed at the same inspection station that performed the initial inspection.

Regardless of the date of inspection, vehicles issued a failed inspection sticker due to a safety defect (indicated by a sticker with a red letter "R") should not be driven until appropriate repairs have been completed.

All motorcycle inspection stickers originally set to expire on May 31 must be inspected by June 30.

The RMV is also extending the time during which newly registered vehicles must be inspected, which is typically within seven days of the date of registration.

Newly registered non-commercial vehicle purchased between March 1 and March 31 must be inspected by May 31. Those purchased between April 1 and April 31 must be inspected by June 30.

Registrations

Vehicle registration expirations will not be extended at this time. Most vehicle registrations can be renewed online at www.mass.gov/rmv.

\$1M gift sets up Covid-19 relief fund

The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts announced last week that it would establish a Covid-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley with a lead gift of \$1 million from MassMutual.

Along with MassMutual's gift, the foundation is contributing \$500,000 to the Response Fund. Big Y, Easthampton Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank/Northampton Cooperative Bank and PeoplesBank have also committed to contributing to the fund. Other area businesses and philanthropic organizations are being encouraged to contribute to the fund, as is the general public. Those interested in making a gift to the fund should visit communityfoundation.org/coronavirus-donations, or contact the Community Foundation at donor-services@communityfoundation.org.

Hosted by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the Covid-19 Response Fund will provide flexible resources to Pioneer Valley nonprofit organizations serving populations most impacted by the crisis, such as the elderly, those without stable housing, families needing food and those with particular health vulnerabilities.

Funds initially will be given to existing community-based organizations who currently serve vulnerable populations and who are best able to identify those requiring crisis services.

Katie Allan Zobel, president and CEO of the foundation, said the fund is "another example of our region's extraordinary generosity and community commitment."

"Speaking for the Community Foundation, our other partners and the community as a whole, I want to express my deep appreciation to our strong community partner, MassMutual, and their leadership who moved swiftly with this gift to help at this time of crisis," Zobel said.

Congressman Richard Neal stated, "MassMutual has its roots in the Greater Springfield community, not just because it is where their employees work, but because it is where they live and grow their families. Their generous donation to the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts will ensure that all families across Western Massachusetts have access to what they need during this trying time. Whether it be access to care for seniors, or ensuring food security for those out of work, the Community Foundation and their nonprofit partners will be able to step up and provide for our neighbors in a big way. I am appreciative to MassMutual and the Community Foundation for this tremendously important partnership."

Zobel said the fund will be flexible in responding to current needs and as unforeseen needs arise in our community.

ed to be delivered to the president and Congress in December, with redistricting counts for the states by the end of March 2021.

For more information about the census, how to respond, view a copy of the questions, why it's important, and security of respondents' privacy, visit 2020census.gov/en.html.

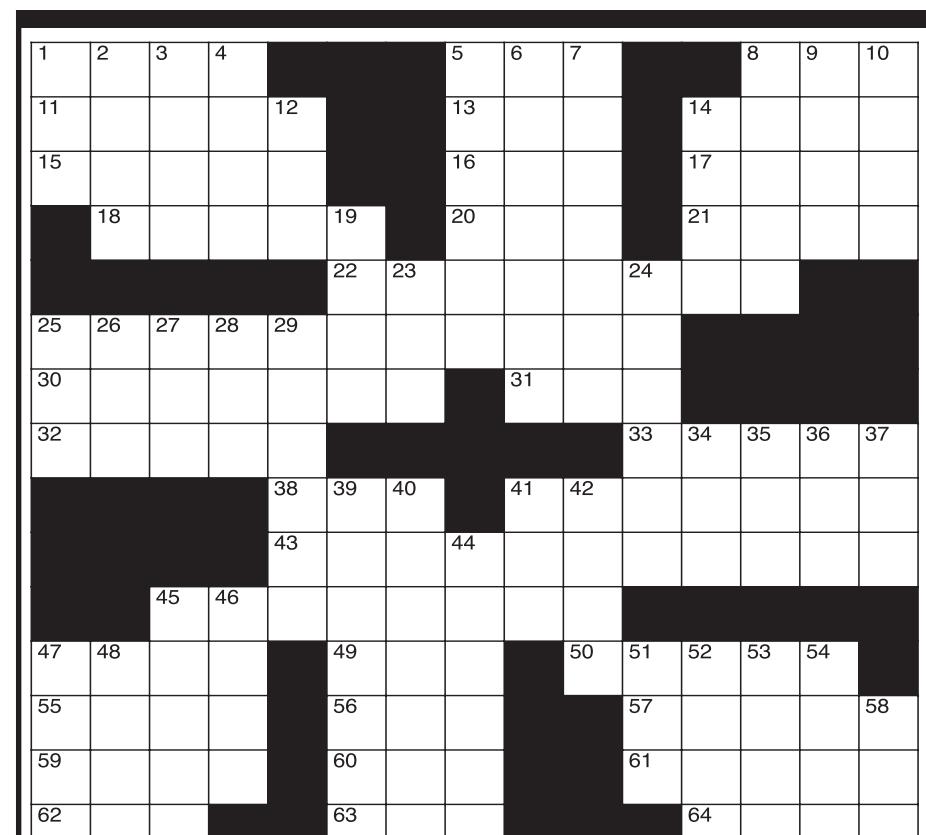
For most respondents, the census form should take only about 10 minutes to complete. The results, however, will be with us for 10 years. Take the time and make sure Holyoke is counted.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to thesun@turley.com.

CENSUS, from page 6

The census questionnaire can be completed online, by phone, or by mail. Starting in May, census takers will be visiting homes that do not respond by the April 1 deadline, to ensure everyone gets counted. The census takers are paid government employees, and they will keep coming until they get a response. Folks who take the time to fill out their census form immediately are saving the government — their own tax dollars — from an unnecessary expense.

Apportionment counts are expect-



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. As soon as possible
- 5. Gateway (Arabic)
- 8. Doctors' group
- 11. Madder genus of plants
- 13. A team's best pitcher
- 14. Ancient Greek sophist
- 15. Go up
- 16. Neither
- 17. Bolivian river
- 18. Manila hemp
- 20. Comedienne Gasteier
- 21. British School
- 22. Human reproductive organs
- 25. Surrenders
- 30. Dog with long, silky coat and drooping ears
- 31. Sun up in New York
- 32. Lead alloy
- 33. Eastern Asian plant
- 38. Rapid deployment force (abbr.)
- 41. Japanese warrior
- 43. Festivity
- 45. Interruptions
- 47. Nonsense (slang)
- 49. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- 50. Calvary sword
- 55. French river
- 56. Global business conference (abbr.)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. Con man's game
- 60. No (Scottish)
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Fish
- 63. Camera term (abbr.)
- 64. Impudence
- 67. Dark brown or black
- 68. Genus of seabirds
- 69. Infant's dining accessory
- 70. Native Americans from Arizona
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- 358. Infant's dining accessory
- 359. Native Americans from Arizona
- 360. Popular fruit
- 361. Poisonous plant
- 362. Scolded
- 363. Assists
- 364. Hand (Spanish)
- 365. Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)
- 366. Afflicted
- 367. Con man's game
- 368. No (Scottish)
- 369. Jewish spiritual leader
- 370. Fish
- 371. Camera term (abbr.)
- 372. Impudence
- 373. Dark brown or black
- 374. Genus of seabirds
- 375. Infant's dining accessory
- 376. Native Americans from Arizona
- 377. Popular fruit
- 378. Poisonous plant
- 379. Scolded
- 380. Assists
- 381. Hand (Spanish)
- 382. Amazon product identifying system (abbr.)
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- 384. Con man's game
- 385. No (Scottish

SPORTS

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Spring sports postponed

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Following the first postponement of spring sports, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association made a subsequent vote to further delay the start of the spring sports to April 27.

The original start date of spring sports was March 16. It was delayed to March 30 when many schools began cancelling classes for two weeks due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The MIAA's Board of Directors were scheduled to meet again by teleconference this week to continue to monitor the situation. However, the March 20 teleconference revealed some decisions that became necessary by the continued postponement of spring sports.

The MIAA has agreed to only hold a postseason tournament if spring sports begins on April 27. If the MIAA has to make another postponement, then the tournaments in all spring sports will be cancelled and high schools will only play a modified schedule.

Additionally, there will not be any exceptions made to Rule 34, which dictates how many contests a team can have in a given week.

Depending on the sport, the number of competitions in a week can range from two to four. It modifies in the events makeups are held, such as in the case of baseball or softball.

The board also voted unanimously to waive the 10-practice rule before competition can happen. The board voted to make it seven calendars from the start of practices.

The maximum number of competitions was also modified to 12 for most sports for tournament participation. A team must have at least eight contests for postseason participation.

A typical baseball or softball schedule is normally 18 to 20 games, while lacrosse and volleyball compete in 16 to 18 contests.

According to the board of directors, there is a movement to try and keep student-athletes from missing their senior season, especially after the state tournament was interrupted for basketball and hockey.

"Based on the charge from the BOD to have a spring sport season start date of April 27," the board minutes state. "Discussion regarding a timeline for post-season play took place. The Tournament Management Committee is committed to allow for broad participation at all levels this spring. Keeping student-athletes connected, involved and engaged has meaning and purpose after the challenges that were faced at the end of the winter season and spring sports in general."

School districts across the state have been ordered closed through April 7. That order was made by Gov. Charlie Baker.

See SPORTS, page 10



Submitted photos
The Western Mass. Relics, a senior softball league, play during last season. The softball league is still planning to begin play on April 25 amid coronavirus concerns.

Senior softball league seeks to start season on time

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

While many are hunkering down trying to wait out the coronavirus pandemic that was crippled regular life, and

especially the sports world with no competitions of any kind due to the edict from state and federal officials barring gatherings of 25 people or more.

But the Western Mass.

Relics, a softball league for senior citizens, is still planning to hold its season-opening jamboree on April 25.

Steve Lepow, the public

See SOFTBALL, page 10

Lusitano Club honors high school soccer all-stars

By Tim Peterson
sports@turley.com

LUDLOW—The 31st annual Lusitano Alumni & Fans (LAF) All-Star High School Soccer Player Awards Night was held at the Gremio Lusitano Club in Ludlow on March 8.

The guest speaker was John Gibson, who has been the women's soccer coach for the past 20 years. Gibson, a native of London, England, earned his 200th career victory at Springfield College in the fall of 2015.

One high school soccer player from each of the divisions was selected by the head coaches as the 2019 Player of the Year.

The Division 3 boys Player of the Year is Simba Pelletier from Pope Francis High School.

The Division 3 girls Player of the Year is Julianna Dickinson from Hampshire Regional.

The Division 4 girls Player of the Year is Nora Young from Granby High School.

"It's awesome to have been selected as the Division 4 girl's Player of the Year," Young said. "I wouldn't have been able to receive this award without the help of my teammates and coaches."

Young completed her outstanding high school soccer career with more than 100 career points (Goals & Assists). She was also a member of the Lady Rams varsity basketball team and became the school's all-time leading scorer in the final game of the regular season.

"I love both sports equally," Young said. "I've been playing soccer and basketball since I was

very little. I thought about playing soccer in college, but basketball was my first choice. If the two seasons were a little bit farther apart, I would probably play both sports in college."

Young will only be playing college basketball at AIC next year.

It was the second year in a row that a member of the Granby girls soccer team was selected as the Division 4 girls Player of the Year.

"It's very special to see two of our players selected as the Player of the Year during the past two years," said Granby head coach Bob Weaver. "I've coached Nora during the past four years and she really deserved to receive the award this year. She's a tremendous athlete and is a great kid. We're really going to miss her next year."

A member of the South Hadley girls soccer team, which captured the Division 3 state title last fall, also received the LAF Scholarship Award for the second consecutive year. Carla Jarrett was the scholarship recipient a year ago and Lindsay Marjanski was this year's scholarship award winner.

"It feels very nice to be rewarded for all of the hard work that I've done," Marjanski said. "I'll be attending Holy Cross College and I'm very excited about it."

Just like Young, Marjanski will be playing a sport other than soccer at the collegiate level. She'll be a member of the Crusaders women's track and field team.

"I've already met the members of the team," she said. "I'm looking forward to becoming a

member of the track and field team next year. Holy Cross was the perfect fit for me both academically and athletically."

Marjanski's main event is high jump, but she will be able to do all of the events as a college freshman.

The other scholarship award winners are Robert Michalski (East Longmeadow H.S.), Erin Czelusniak (Lenox H.S.), and JT Novitsky (Lenox H.S.).

The members of the Division 1 girls first team are Emily DeGeorge (Agawam High School), Hope Santaniello (Agawam High School), Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown High School), and Brooke Samborski (Belchertown High School), Samantha Breton (Chicopee Comp High School),

See SOCCER, page 10

Thompson Speedway Motorsports reschedules events

THOMPSON, Conn. -- After conversations with all stakeholders, Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park announced on Tuesday the new date for the 46th annual Liquid Death Icebreaker weekend. The prestigious event is now tentatively set to take place May 15 and 16, including the headlining NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Death To Plastic 150.

Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak, the date is tentative, as the situation is fluid and changes are occurring

across the motorsports industry daily. A full schedule for the event will be released once available.

The original date for the Liquid Death Icebreaker, April 3 to 5, was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, but Thompson Speedway officials were committed to finding the right date and releasing it to the public as quickly as possible.

"After working with all of the different parties involved, we feel this is the best weekend to run the Icebreaker

and kick-off the Thompson racing season," Terry Eames, the General Manager of Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, said. "Just like the entire racing community, we are disappointed that we can't start the race season as originally scheduled. However, we will continue to abide by our Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Orders and CDC suggestions during this time. We fully expect to begin the season with the Icebreaker, May 15-16, and look forward to seeing everyone back at the track soon."

The health of our valued race teams, fans, staff and customers is paramount during the COVID-19 outbreak. We have cleaned the property thoroughly to do our part to stop the spread of the virus and will continue to do so in the future.

For more information on Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park, visit thompsonspeedway.com and follow the track on social media.

Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball looking for new players

The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season, which is set to begin near the end of April. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's

Day Saturday game in early May. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site.

For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be taking place in the early weeks of April, weather permitting, with a draft following the tryouts.

SPORTS, from page 9

Baker has not made a decision or set a deadline to revisit that closure and whether or not to extend it.

The MIAA has posted a fluid document on its website answering questions about the current situation. The document is considered fluid and is updated when new developments occur.

The MIAA has specifically stated that

no sports can be practice or played prior to April 27. Additionally, coaches unable to interact with their players before that date.

The MIAA plans to provide guidance on health and safety guidelines for spring sports if there are still concerns about the coronavirus when schools resume competition.

The board was scheduled to meet Tuesday morning with an update to be published after that meeting.

SOCER, from page 9

Emily Howard (Minnechaug Regional), Rhiann Ryan (Minnechaug Regional), and Katherine Russell (Minnechaug Regional).

The members of the Division 1 boys first team are Nate Mateus (Agawam High School), Connor Montagna (Agawam High School), Mamadi Jiana (Chicopee High School), Brennan Dort (Chicopee High School), Anthony Quiterio (Ludlow High School), Michael Riley (Ludlow High School), and Michael Tuck Jr. (Ludlow High School).

The members of the Division 3 girls first team are Madelyn Doolittle (South Hadley High School), Anna Evans (South Hadley High School), Teagan Gawron (South Hadley High School), Lindsay Marjanski (South Hadley High School), Paige Marjanski (South Hadley High School), Bridget Sears (South

Hadley High School), Tennessee Murphy (Monson High School), Alivia Skowyra (Monson High School), and Madalyn Theriault (Palmer High School).

The members of the Division 3 boys first team are Owen Raines (Belchertown High School), Zach Lajeunesse (Belchertown High School), Korey Houle (Belchertown High School), and Ethan Czaporowski (Belchertown High School).

The members of the Division 4 girls first team are Julia Frappier (Granby High School), Nora Young (Granby High School), Julia Gauvin (Granby High School), Emily Vallee (Granby High School), and Caitlin Hess (Ware High School).

The members of the Division 4 boys first team are Logan Gerry (Monson High School), Shawn Jabert (Monson High School), and Prescott Watson (Monson High School).

have an opportunity to showcase their skills before being selected to a team for the season. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

Sign-ups ongoing for Quabbin Valley Baseball League

The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For players new to the league, there will be a workout held in early April prior to the league's annual draft. Players will

SOFTBALL, from page 9

relations director for the league, says the league has begun booking its field for play, and the Ludlow-based league, which draws players from all over the region and into Connecticut, claims the field will be available come the start of the season.

"We lease the softball field from Fish and Game and we met the owner and posed the question about having to delay the start of the season," Lepow said. "He assured us the softball field will be available to us even if the bar is closed because of the coronavirus."

The season starts on April 25 with a jamboree of modified games with the regular season beginning on April 27.

"Full games are supposed to happen on April 27," said Lepow. "We play seven inning games with two divisions. The silver division is for 50 to 65-year-olds and the gold division is for ages 65 and older. Our oldest player is 89-years-old."

The purpose of the league is to have fun and build friendships.

Lepow said regardless of where the pandemic stands, the league does

plan to forego typical hand-shaking lines post game.

"We will eliminate hand-shaking lines after the game and fist bumps," said Lepow. "We have safety rules to prevent contact such as two first base bags (orange for the runner and white for the fielder). We also have a screen for the pitchers circle to protect the pitcher."

Lepow says player safety will be a top concern.

"Safety is our number one concern," said Lepow. In addition to the things to the hand-shaking, we are asking any player who is sick not to come. We are also providing wipes or other sanitizers to use on bats. On our website we have information constantly being added to keep players advised on what we are doing to ensure safety."

The commissioner of the league recently emailed players asking them to use common sense and announce that the season is still on.

The league's only opposition could come at the local, state, or federal level if the games are not exempted from the gathering restrictions that have been made.

Read The Sun online at www.sun.turley.com

Holyoke Arrests

The Holyoke Police Department recorded the following arrests March 16-21. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Monday, March 16

George C. Reeder-Perez, 40, of 109 Bemis Road, Holyoke, was arrested at 5:07 a.m. on Beech Street and charged with disorderly conduct.

Yeinaliz G. Lebron Alvelo, 18, of 55 Savoy Ave., 1st Floor, Springfield, was arrested at 9:40 a.m. on a warrant.

Tuesday, March 17

Antonio Eckstein, 31, of 14 Embury St., Springfield, was arrested at 9:53 p.m. on Appleton Street on three warrants, and also charged with resisting arrest.

Wednesday, March 18

No arrests were recorded in the public log.

Thursday, March 19

No arrests were recorded in the public log.

Friday, March 20

William Cryer, 37, of 421 N. Main St., Northampton, was arrested at 6:25 a.m. on Maple Street and charged with disorderly conduct, trespassing, and assault and battery on a police officer.

Douglas George Pitteroff, 67, of 7 Prew Ave., Apt. B5, Holyoke, was arrested at 6:08 p.m. on Prew Avenue on a warrant.

Saturday, March 21

Johnattan M. Perez, 37, of 294 Elm St., Apt. 4B, Holyoke, was arrested at 2:52 a.m. on Sargeant Street on a warrant.

Sunday, March 22

The police log for March 22 was not available at press time.

City man indicted for cheating at MGM casino's poker tables

A Holyoke man has been indicted in connection with an elaborate cheating scheme that netted more than \$30,000 in illegal poker winnings from MGM Springfield, Attorney General Maura Healey announced this month.

A Hampden County Grand Jury indicted Daniel Ruiz, 38, on March 13 on one count of larceny by single scheme and one count of cheating and swindling. He was scheduled to be arraigned in Hampden Superior Court.

These charges are the result of a joint investigation between the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at MGM Springfield and the Massachusetts

State Police Gaming Enforcement Detective Unit.

The AG's Office alleges that between Jan. 29 and Feb. 14, 2019, Ruiz frequented MGM Springfield, regularly played four-card poker, and while doing so repeatedly used a strategy of distracting dealers so he could improperly and discreetly add to his wagers once he learned he had a winning hand. Authorities allege that Ruiz pocketed approximately \$30,025 through the elaborate scheme.

Healey's Gaming Enforcement Division has a dedicated group of prosecutors and investigators who

See CASINO, page 11

HCC scores Kennedy Center theater awards

The Holyoke Community College Theater Department was recognized with three awards at this year's regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

HCC earned awards in the category of "Theatre for Social Change" for its spring 2019 production of "Ugly Lies the Bone," by Lindsey Ferrentino, and another for ensemble work for its fall 2019 production of the Thornton Wilder classic "Our Town."

In addition, HCC theater major Haley Thompson of Westfield won a performance award for her role in "Ugly Lies the Bone" as the mother of the main character, Jess, a war-scarred female soldier returning home.

The awards were announced at the end of the KCACTF Region I festival, which was held at Cape Cod Community College Jan. 28 to Feb. 1.

Sixteen HCC students and two theater faculty members attended the festival and were on hand to accept the awards.

"It's wonderful to have our students recognized by the Kennedy Center for their outstanding accomplishments in all aspects theater," said HCC theater professor Patricia Sandoval, who directed "Our Town." "I'm especially proud of the award for ensemble work because that is for collaboration, which is really the essence

of theater."

KCACTF Region I includes colleges and universities in northern New

York and the six New England states. Awards are based on the recommendations of respondents, who travel around

the country to view college theater productions and offer critiques.

"We are extremely proud of the hard work our students and staff put in to pull these performances together throughout the year," said HCC theater professor Tim Cochran, director of "Ugly Lies the Bone." "The Kennedy Center people sure seem to like what we're doing here at HCC, given that our program continues to receive a lot of recognition."

In the past eight years, the HCC Theater Department has won 11 KCACTF awards in various categories, among them individual acting, ensemble acting, dedication to a script, stage managing, and best original music.

The HCC Theater Department puts on two full stage productions each academic year, one in the fall and one in the spring. HCC students take part in the annual alumni-sponsored 24-Hour Theater Festival in September, a festival of one-act plays in the spring, and No Shame Theater, where students gather once a month to write, rehearse and perform short plays in one night.

Rehearsals are now underway for HCC's spring 2020 production of the classic Greek tragedy "Antigone," by Sophocles. The show, directed by 1977 HCC theater alumna Denise Boutin, will be presented in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater April 16-18.



Holyoke Community College student-actors Caleb Curd, Jayda Aponte and Brandon Rodriguez in a scene from HCC's award-winning production of "Our Town."

Submitted photo



Hikers walk along the Whiting Street Reservoir this week. Reservoir and state park properties in Holyoke are still open, dawn to dusk.

HIKE, from page 1

Heritage State Park downtown.

The trails remain open, however, including 22 miles of trails at Mount Tom. Park officials encourage people to get exercise through hiking or mountain biking. During the state of emergency, DCR is even waiving the usual

admission fee charged at the park gate on Reservation Road, off Northampton Street (Route 5).

Park users are asked to keep at least 6 feet away from other people — "social distancing" — whenever possible, to engage only in non-contact forms of recreation, to avoid groups of 10 or more, and to leave the area if a large



Hikers at Whiting Street Reservoir can enjoy seeing Mount Tom in the distance, as long as they still practice "social distancing" from other hikers.

Photos by Shelby Macri

gathering starts to build. People who are ill, over 70 or part of a vulnerable population should stay home, the DCR advises.

DCR has also implemented a "carry in, carry out" policy on waste, as trash is not being collected at parks during the coronavirus state of emergency.

In addition to closing sports facil-

ties at its parks, DCR has also closed all state-owned ice rinks, including Fitzpatrick Skating Rink in Holyoke and Smead Memorial Skating Rink in Springfield.

For more information on state parks, forests and reservations, visit www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-conservation-recreation.

CASINO, from page 10

enforce the state's Expanded Gaming Act of 2011 and investigate and prosecute illegal activity, such as gaming-related financial crime, organized crime, corruption and money laundering, including the majority of criminal activity occurring at the state's casinos.

All of these charges are allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Colleen

Monroe, with assistance from Senior Financial Investigator Gene Griffin, both of the attorney general's Gaming Enforcement Division. The case was investigated by the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit at MGM Springfield and the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Detective Unit with assistance from the AG's Gaming Enforcement Division, the Springfield Police Department, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, and with the cooperation of MGM Springfield.

BUSINESSES, from page 8

payments, with no pre-payment penalty. Businesses can apply for loans of up to \$75,000.

"Our office remains in regular contact with the state's business community to provide updates and receive feedback as the administration continues to expand its comprehensive Covid-19 response," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. "These new recovery loans complement other resources like the state WorkShare program and fed-

eral Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, as well as legislative efforts by the administration to support impacted workers."

MGCC is a quasi-public corporation of the state that saves and creates jobs at small businesses, often minority- and women-owned businesses, by providing financial services and managerial assistance. It also promotes economic development throughout the state, focusing on Gateway cities and low- to moderate-income communities. For more information, visit EmpoweringSmallBusiness.org.



It's easy to submit your local news!

Turley Editorial Coverage Policies

CALENDAR

This section is intended to promote "free" events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the entire community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. Deadlines vary with each individual newspaper, look inside for your deadline. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation, and contact info. The best thing to do is emulate a calendar listing you like that already appeared in the paper. Each editor directly manages and edits all of the calendar entries. Artwork or photos to compliment your calendar listings are always welcomed.

EDUCATION

We try to be inside our public schools on a weekly basis, both in terms of sports coverage and classroom features. Our education and sports sections run 52 weeks per year. We feel school coverage is probably the single largest reflection of the communities we serve, so this paper is committed to having a strong presence there. We devote more staff and space to these sections than any other editorial realm. We do print free courtesy stories, briefs and photos submitted by teachers, sports teams and students, as we cannot possibly be at every event. If you have a photo you want to run, please include a photo caption identifying those in the image from left to right and a description of the event. Please call or e-mail the editor directly with your school event coverage requests at least three days in advance. If we can't attend, you are always encouraged to send in your own write-up and photos.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

OPINION

We love letters to the editor and guest columns. It is what the soul of this newspaper is all about. However, we don't print what we can't prove. All letters and columns must be signed and confirmed by us prior to publication. If you are alleging things that we cannot prove, we will consider that a news tip and look into it. We always encourage readers to celebrate their communities versus just slamming them. We also pen a weekly "editorial." Some readers confuse editorials with being objective "news." Our unsigned editorials are opinions formed after doing the research, or com-

piled through our reporters' stories and other means. We then write opinions, which do take a definitive side on issues. Editorials are not meant to be balanced to both sides like our news stories should. They are intended to opine around the facts and take a position. That's the whole point of the "opinion" page.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

SPORTS

Our sports editor and his reporters and photographers cover select varsity school games weekly as well as youth and adult sports leagues. Our team tries to be fair and spread the coverage around to all the teams, but as playoffs approach, teams making the playoffs take more precedence. We have tried hard this year to expand our coverage of youth sports, but we need coaches and players to send in their photos and write-ups.



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In The News

PRIMARY, from page 1

residents to avoid any gatherings and unnecessary travel outside the home, voter advocacy groups and some elected officials had pressed Secretary of State William Galvin to move the election date.

Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse, for instance, had asked that the election be postponed to "late May or early June."

"We will not have the capacity to staff this election [without a delay], as the majority of our poll workers are retired, and the elderly are the most vulnerable to getting sick from this virus," Morse wrote in a March 19 letter to Galvin. "... I believe that holding the election at this time would put the public health and safety in unnecessary danger. The current situation we are in is unpredictable and public health and safety must be our number one priority."

Debra O'Malley, the director of communications for the secretary of state, said the executive branch couldn't act until the Senate, which had called the election in the first place, passed its own order, which it did on March 23.

O'Malley said there will be no changes to the ballots themselves. Absentee ballots that have already been cast will remain valid and will be counted on the new election day. The only race on the May 19 ballot is the state senate election.

City Clerk Brenna McGee said on Tuesday that the date change won't be a problem, and will even give the city more time to purchase hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and extra pens for the polling stations. She also plans to develop specific guidelines for poll workers to keep everyone safe, if the coronavirus is still seen as a threat in May.

Under the legislation passed Monday, voters will have until Friday, May 8, to register for the special election. The legislation also allows any-

one concerned about the coronavirus to cast an absentee ballot, which can be done by mail. Voters can also ask to cast early ballots by mail, without having to give a reason. Under previous state law, absentee ballots are available only to people who are unable to visit the polls on election day because of travel plans, religious restrictions or medical disability, and early voting was not available for special elections.

Voters interested in registering to vote or casting a ballot by mail should contact the city clerk at clerks@holyoke.org, or by mail. Forms for both registration and absentee ballots can be downloaded from the state website at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm and mailed to the City Clerk's Office, 536 Dwight St., Holyoke, MA 01040.

The winner of the election will immediately take the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District seat vacant since January, when Donald Humason Jr. resigned from the Senate to take office as mayor of Westfield. Humason, a Republican, had represented the district since 2013.

Cain and Velis were the sole candidates for state senator in their parties' primary elections, held March 3, alongside the presidential primary.

Holyoke has been without Senate representation since January, although the district's office remained open for constituent service. District residents may contact the senator's office in Boston at 617-722-1415, and in Westfield at 413-568-1366.

Whoever wins the May election will serve until the end of 2020. In a quirk of the calendar prompted by this week's date change, the senator may have to file his re-election bid before being elected in the first place, as the state election calendar currently has an April 28 deadline for legislative candidates to submit their nomination papers for the November 2020 election.

The senator elected or re-elected in November will then serve the standard two-year term.



John Cain



John Velis

Public Notices

(MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS: Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 23, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

3/27/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c. 159B Sec 6B as Amended

By Senate 466 of 1989

Notice is hereby given by **Reardon's Garage Inc.**, 1537 Northampton St., Holyoke, MA, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, p39 that on **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 noon** at 1537 Northampton St., Holyoke, MA, the following motor vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garagekeepers lien.

2002 Acura 3.2 TL
Vin# 19UUA56632A030616
LKO: Paul Prentice
247 Granville Rd.
Southwick, MA

2016 Hyundai Elantra
Vin# 5NPDH4AE6GH746123
LKO: Michael Javier Rodriguez Cabreco
3 Lamb St.
So. Hadley, MA 01075

2007 Toyota Scion TC
Vin# JTKDE177270155454
LKO: Kimberly Cahaon
173 Holbrook Ave.
Willamantic, CT

2007 Lincoln MKZ
Vin# 3LNHM28T67R615580
LKO: Lamar Anthony
24565 Edgewood St.
Philadelphia, PA

2002 Toyota Celica
Vin# JTDDR32T320124721
LKN: Heriberto Carmona
3 Pray Dr.
Greenfield, MA

1998 Toyota Camry
Vin# 4T1BF22K6WU925414
LKO: Kayla Plasse
84 Grape St. #1L
Chicopee, MA

2005 Ford 500

Vin# 1FAFP24195G154148
LKO: Carlin Liquore
69 Blanchard Ave.
Ludlow, MA

2005 Chevy Malibu
Vin# 1G1ZT648X5F239327
LKO: Felix Gonzalez
837 State St. #509
Springfield, MA

2001 Toyota Corolla
Vin# JTDBU4EE8B9142409
LKO: Shauna Sabin
178 No. Summer St.
No. Adams, MA
3/20, 3/27, 4/03/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
TREE TRIMMING
& VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT

ANNUAL CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., April 23, 2020** at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bid Deposit:

A Bid Deposit in the amount of \$35,000 must accompany all bids and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer's, or cashier's check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

Prevailing Wage Rates:

Rates, which are to apply to the work, are set by the Mass. Dept. of Labor & Industries.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Yocelyn F. Delgado
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
ydelgado@hgged.com

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal or proposals that in the opinion of the Manager may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes "Bid for Tree Trimming & Vegetation Management Annual Contract" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
3/06/2020

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HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC NOTICES

All public notices to be published in the Holyoke Sun should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Jamie Joslyn processes all public notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie directly at 413-283-8393.

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Please check the accuracy of your public notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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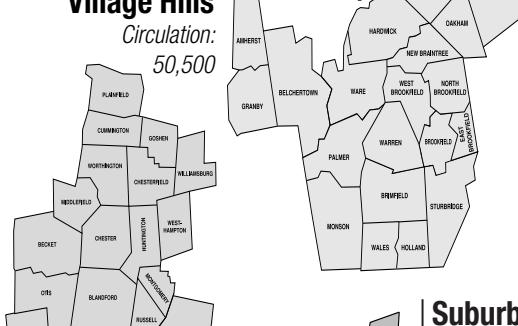
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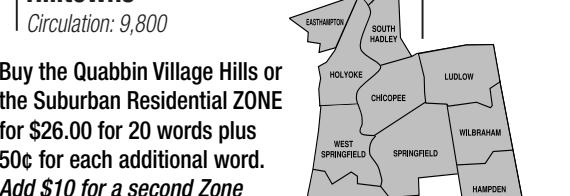
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Michael Ahearn Sr. watches from his room as Holyoke's Matthew O'Connor plays "Danny Boy" on St. Patrick's Day.

Submitted photo / Linda Manor Extended Care

Pipe brings St. Patrick's spirit to senior facility

Holyoke bagpiper Matthew O'Connor honored the Ahearn family at their family burial site before visiting 87-year-old Irishman Michael Ahearn Sr., a resident at Linda Manor Extended Care in Leeds, on St. Patrick's Day, to play his pipes outside Ahearn's window.

Ahearn watched as family members raised their glasses to toast him

and his late wife. Linda Manor staff and the family found a creative way to keep a resident in contact with the outside world despite public health concerns surrounding the coronavirus.

Linda Manor Extended Care is a nonprofit organization that has been caring for people in the Pioneer Valley since 1989. For more information, visit www.lindamanor.org.

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